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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/659,614

09/10/2003

Michael R. Smith

CIS0196US

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12/05/2006

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EXAMINER

CHAI, LONGBIT

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2131

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/659,614

Applicant(s)

SMITH, MICHAEL R.

Examiner

Longbit Chai

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-117 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-117 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 – 117 have been presented for examination.

Election / Restrictions

2. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct claimed inventions. Restriction to one of the following invention is required under 35 U.S.C 121:

- I. Claims 1 – 7 drawn to specify a content of a role-based access control list including both of the source and destination user group identifiers for network security purpose, classified in class 726, subclass 2.
- II. Claims 55 – 74 drawn to provide a mechanism of populating an access control list through a received packet from both of the source and destination user group identifiers for network security purpose, classified in class 726, subclass 14.
- III. Claims 99 – 110 drawn to specify a content and structure of an access permission matrix including a row element, a column element of user groups obtained from the access control list and a pointer to another permission list for network security purpose, classified in class 726, subclass 5.

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- IV. Claims 8 – 13 drawn to specify a content of a forwarding table including ports, MAC, VLAN ID and both of the source and destination user group identifiers for network security purpose, classified in class 713, subclass 153.
- V. Claims 28 – 32, 41 – 43, 52 – 54 and 75 – 98 drawn to provide a mechanism of populating an forwarding table through a received packet from both of the source and destination user group identifiers for network security purpose, classified in class 713, subclass 151.

Examiner notes even though claims 28 – 32, 41 – 43, 52 – 54 are dependent on claims 14, 33 and 44 respectively, those claims fail to further limit the corresponding independent claims 14, 33 and 44 respectively (i.e. “comparing” and “populating” are completely unrelated events) and should be qualified as independent claims the same way as each of independent claims 75, 87 and 93.

- VI. Claims 14 – 27, 33 – 40 and 44 – 51 drawn to provide a mechanism of validating a packet based upon an access control list including both of the source and destination user group identifiers for network security purpose, classified in class 726, subclass 4.
- VII. Claims 111 – 115 drawn to provide a mechanism of generating a packet based upon an access control list including both of the

source and destination user group identifiers for network security purpose, classified in class 726, subclass 15.

VIII. Claims 111, 113 and 116 – 117 drawn to provide a mechanism of generating a packet based upon an forwarding table including ports and both of the source and destination user group identifiers for network security purpose, classified in class 726, subclass 3.

3. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: Group I – VIII, where Group VII and VIII have generic claims 111 and 113 as presented above.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 111 and 113 are generic for Group VII and VIII.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species.

MPEP § 809.02(a).

Invention I has separate utility directed a content of a role-based access control list including both of the source and destination user group identifiers for network security purpose.

Invention II has separate utility directed to provide a mechanism of populating an access control list through a received packet from both of the source and destination user group identifiers for network security purpose.

Invention III has separate utility directed to specify a content and structure of an access permission matrix including a row element, a column element of user groups obtained from the access control list and a pointer to another permission list for network security purpose.

Invention IV has separate utility directed to specify a content of a forwarding table including ports, MAC, VLAN ID and both of the source and destination user group identifiers for network security purpose.

Invention V has separate utility directed to provide a mechanism of populating an forwarding table through a received packet from both of the source and destination user group identifiers for network security purpose.

Invention VI has separate utility directed to provide a mechanism of validating a packet based upon an access control list including both of the source and destination user group identifiers for network security purpose.

Invention VII has separate utility directed to provide a mechanism of generating a packet based upon an access control list including both of the source and destination user group identifiers for network security purpose.

Invention VIII has separate utility directed to provide a mechanism of generating a packet based upon an forwarding table including ports and both of the source and destination user group identifiers for network security.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purpose as indicated is proper.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Longbit Chai whose telephone number is 571-272-3788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm.

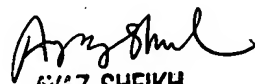
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Longbit Chai
Examiner
Art Unit 2131

LBC



AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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